



Transnational Identity In Amitav Ghosh's Sea Of Poppies

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Abstract: The term *transnationalism* has often been considered too general and encompassing. This study uses established Native American identity categories, legal, biological, and cultural - as well as self-identification – and applies them as lenses to literary transnational character identities to propose a more nuanced perspective. Through analyzing four transnational characters in Amitav Ghosh's novel *Sea of Poppies*, the interconnected yet individual histories, stories, and journeys resonate as a result of grounding in the loosely used concept of *transnationalism*. The characters Deeti, Paulette, Zachary and Neel are examined in detail with regards to these identity categories. As a result, cultural identities and self-identifications are most commonly prioritized, suggesting that citizenship is not the most commonly desired identity amongst transnationals in literature, either collectively or individually.

Index Terms – Transnational, poppie, Ghosh, postcolonial, biological.

I. INTRODUCTION

The way that Indians write in English has evolved over the course of time. Writers have started to investigate the culture, society, and political challenges that are currently being faced. Most notably, authors such as Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh have travelled across borders and written about India prior to the country's independence. They have combined historical events with fictional events and provided an insight into the lives of those who were caught between two identities. The breadth and force of Indian writing have both expanded over the course of its history. One of the most straightforward ways to evaluate the development of Indian writing is to look at the number of shortlists and winners of the Man Booker Prize! Nevertheless, this is not the only method that can be used to evaluate the development of fiction in India.

For the purpose of this study, a framework was utilised to investigate the characters according to specific transnational identity concepts. In addition to self-identification, it was investigated in relation to legal identity, biological identity, cultural identity, and other identities. The purpose of this explanation is to demonstrate how the utilisation of a framework or focal point that unloads character can lead to the development of a new and more mind-boggling understanding of international characters in terms of their own stories, histories, and excursions. All four of the characters that were examined, namely Deeti, Zachary, Neel, and Paulette, may be grouped together and given the name transnationals. However, how does this label assist in comprehending the characters who are being examined?

By engaging Garrouette's framework as it is applied to Native Americans and making use of those categories, the reader's attention is directed toward many identities, including legal, biological, cultural, and self-identification identities, rather than the aggregate transnational identity. What this exposes is that each of these four characters has their own unique storey and history, but they also share a common dependence on maintaining their cultural and self-identification identities rather than their legal and biological identities. Based on this new view, it appears that the demand for belonging and connectedness is more important than the need for citizenship. In the following stage, it is suggested that a more in-depth investigation of transnational characters in Ghosh's other novels or even in other transnational novels might speak similarly to the strength or importance that cultural and self-identification have over legal and biological identities.

The utilisation of Native American character classes sheds light on an intriguing pattern that highlights the relationship between transnational social centrality and Native American culture. Over the course of the last few decades, Native Americans have been confronted with a more prominent esteem for their culture. This is due to the fact that legitimate and organic methods of distinguishing have become more difficult to exhibit. With the purpose of participating in social character, the proximity to other tribe persons and regional terrains becomes less of a concern. This brings about a reduction in the amount of anxiety that is experienced. In spite of the fact that tribal adherents live in the city rather than on tribal grounds or reservations, they are nonetheless able to continue to practise the social norms that are vital to their identities. There is no doubt that the transnational characters in Ghosh's novel exhibit this inherent tendency as well. As they move further away from the land and the ability to discern lawful and organic characters, they are required to invest more effort after discovering and reinforcing social characters.

One's legal identity is the first type of identification. When they first begin their journey, all four of the characters from Deeti, Paulette, Zachary, and Neel have a legal identity. However, as they progress through the storey, their identities undergo a transformation. In order to determine the legal identity of these characters, a simple inquiry regarding their nation of origin was conducted. They are automatically granted citizenship in a certain nation simply by virtue of the fact that they were born in that nation. Consequently, it is simple to appreciate their legal identification by examining the original land in where they were born. The state of Bihar was Deeti's legal abode; but, once she boards the Ibis, that will change.

In a same fashion, when they embarked on their journey, each of the characters abandoned their legal identities. Biological identity is the next type of identification to be found. On the basis of the location of their birth and information about their parents, this identity can be assessed.

According to analysts, a person's character is a collection of behaviours, emotions, and cognitive patterns that are unique to that individual throughout their lifetime. Late puberty or early adulthood is typically the time when a person's personality is fully formed. It is not normal for sensations to shift after this point in time. Sexual tendencies, religious convictions, experiences during youth, ethnicity, culture, and scientific knowledge all contribute to the formation of a person's personality. As a result of research, it has been demonstrated that individuals have a strong desire to identify themselves, going against the labels (such as lesbian, Catholic, or African American) that they have not chosen for themselves. When it comes to the development of an individual's character, it is essential to provide both constructive and contradictory names. Culture is the second type of identity to be considered. Among the many identities that are frequently explored, this is one of the most significant. Not only is there a French lady, but there is also an American, a middle-class Indian, and a wealthy Indian. They are able to bring their culture with them in some unexpected way. Without a doubt, there is a connection between a person's culture and their personality. All of the cultural identities are entangled with one another throughout the Ibis journey.

After focusing on social personality, it is now essential to also characterise what is meant by a distinct social personality as opposed to a vague social personality. Additionally, it is important to understand how these various mental encounters can be associated with the development of a reasonable individual personality, as well as how they can be enhanced with self-esteem and well-being.

According to Taylor's (1997, 2002) theory of aggregate character clarity, some people believe that a well defined social personality provides the individual with a straightforward and manageable structure for how they are able to function on the planet, what they should value, and how they should proceed. A plausible individual character can be developed through the use of this governing structure, which can frame the cause for its development. The relationship between a decent individual personality and one's self-esteem and mental well-being is a well-established one.

Self-identification becomes the final identity that is examined in this process. The characters were able to determine their own identities via the passage of time and the events that transpired in their lives. All of the characters in time come to terms with the fact that they have changed, and they accept this transformation. The concerns that Crang et al. expressed with regard to the establishment of transnationalism through the

establishment of personalities can be addressed by investigating and analysing the different stories of each of these characters. This can be accomplished by dissecting different aspects of the characters and using them as focal points.

In order to answer the difficulties that Crang et al. raised in relation to anchoring transnationalism through grounding identities, it is necessary to investigate and analyse the stories of each of these characters by dissecting different aspects of their identities and using them as lenses. In this particular instance, it ensures a comprehensive evaluation of identities based on place and time by analysing India throughout the time of colonialization. The opium trade and the lives of individual people are taken into consideration, along with the historical particulars surrounding the trade. In addition, it offers a guidance to ensure that the concept of transnationalism is not overly organised, bringing attention to the challenges and complexities that are experienced by individuals who possess transnational identities for themselves. In a similar vein, incorporating Vertovec's proposal that various identities are significant helps solve the concern of restricting the term in an excessive manner. This is demonstrated by the fact that each character in the storey possesses multiple identities.

The scope of this paper is limited to analysing transnational characters within the context of a transnational literary article. However, it would be interesting to apply this same set of lenses to actual transnational communities and individuals and investigate the impact that relying on stereotypes of identities has on the concept of transnationalism. This would be in contrast to a more nuanced vision of character interconnectedness, which is dependent on the specifics of each individual's storey, journey, and history. My hypothesis only begins to reveal one method of anchoring the term transnationalism, and it only begins to unravel the complexities involved with transnational identities within the realm of literature. The applications and premises of Vertovec and Crang et al., on the other hand, make it abundantly clear that the grounding of transnationalism in terms of comprehending transnational identities is something that absolutely must take place.

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